

FACT SHEET

REISSUANCE OF A GENERAL VPDES PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TO STATE WATERS AND STATE CERTIFICATION UNDER THE STATE WATER CONTROL LAW October 24, 2009

The Virginia State Water Control Board has under consideration the reissuance of a VPDES general permit for point source discharges from facilities discharging coin operated laundry wastewater to the surface waters of the State of Virginia. This rulemaking is proposed in order to establish appropriate and necessary permitting requirements for discharges of wastewater from coin operated laundries. The proposed general permit will set forth standard language for effluent limitations and monitoring requirements necessary to regulate this category of dischargers.

Permit Number: VAG72

Name of Permittee: Any owner of a qualifying coin operated laundry with point source discharges to the surface waters of the State of Virginia.

Facility Location: Commonwealth of Virginia

Receiving Waters: Surface waters within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia, except those specifically named in Board Regulations or Policies which prohibit such discharges.

The proposed permit action is tentative. On the basis of preliminary review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the State Water Control Board proposes to issue the general VPDES permit subject to certain conditions. The Board has determined that this category of discharges is appropriately controlled under a general permit. The category of discharges to be included involves facilities with the same or similar types of operations and the facilities discharge the same or similar types of wastes. The draft general permit requires that all covered facilities meet standardized effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.

Persons may comment in writing or by mail to DEQ on the proposed permit action within 30 days from **DATE**. Comments should be addressed to the contact person listed below. Comments shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer, and shall contain a complete, concise statement of the factual basis for comments. Only those comments received within this period will be considered by the Board.

All pertinent information is on file and may be inspected, and arrangements made for copying by contacting George Cosby at:

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, Virginia 23118
(804) 698-4067
george.cosby@deq.virginia.gov

A public hearing will be held on this draft permit. Notice of the public hearing will be published in newspapers and in the Virginia Register. Following the public hearing comment period, the Board will make determinations regarding the proposed permit action.

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The general permit will have a fixed term of five (5) years effective, upon Board approval, February 8, 2011. Every authorization to discharge under this general permit will expire at the same time and all authorizations to discharge will be renewed on the same date.

Activities Covered By This General Permit:

This general permit will cover discharges of coin operated laundry wastewater to surface waters of the State by direct point sources. These are generally facilities that are located in rural areas and are not served by central sewerage facilities. The type of systems to be covered shall include wastewater generated from coin operated laundries designated by SIC 7215. However, this permit does not cover facilities that engage in dry cleaning.

Any owner is authorized to discharge to surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia under this general permit if the owner files and receives acceptance by the Board of the registration statement of 9VAC25-810-60, files the required permit fee, complies with the effluent limitations and other requirements of 9VAC25-810-70, and provided that the Department has not notified the applicant that authorization is denied because of one of the following:

1. The owner is required to obtain an individual permit according to 9VAC25-31-170 B 3;
2. Other board regulations or policies prohibit such discharges;
3. Central sewage facilities are reasonably available;
4. The discharge violates the antidegradation policy in the Water Quality Standards at 9VAC25-260-30; or
5. The board has established a "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) that has been approved by EPA prior to the term of this permit, and the TMDL contains a WLA for the facility, unless this general permit specifically addresses the TMDL pollutant of concern and meets the TMDL WLA.

Numbers 3, 4 and 5 above are proposed additions to section 9VAC25-810-50 "Authorization to discharge" during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period due to EPA comment on other general permits over the past year.

Proposed Limitations and Monitoring Requirements:

1. Effluent limitations for coin operated laundries are as follows:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Monitoring</u>
Flow	Monitoring	Estimate
pH	9.0 max., 6.0 min.*	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	60 mg/l max.	Grab
BOD ₅	60 mg/l max.*	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen	6.0 mg/l min.*	Grab
Temperature °C	32 **	Immersion Stabilization
Total Residual Chlorine	.011 mg/l*	Grab

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* Where the Water Quality Standards (9 VAC 25-260-00 et seq.) establish alternate standards for pH, BOD₅, DO, TRC, and temperature in waters receiving the discharge, those standards shall be the maximum and/or minimum effluent limitations, as appropriate.

** The effluent temperature shall not exceed a maximum 32°C for discharges to non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, 31°C for mountain and upper piedmont waters, 21°C for put and take trout waters, or 20°C for natural trout waters. For estuarine waters, non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, mountain and upper piedmont waters, and put and take trout waters, the effluent shall not cause an increase in temperature of the receiving stream of more than 3°C above the natural water temperature. For natural trout waters, the temperature of the effluent shall not cause an increase of 1°C above natural water temperature. The effluent shall not cause the temperature in the receiving stream to change more than 2°C per hour, except in the case of natural trout waters where the hourly temperature change shall not exceed 0.5°C.

Two monitoring frequencies are proposed. Flow, pH, TSS, BOD₅, DO, TRC, are required to be monitored once per quarter. Temperature is required to be monitored once per six months.

2. There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.

Basis for Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed this category of discharger and concluded, in their Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges From the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category, dated February 1982, that the amounts and toxicity of pollutants in the discharges from these facilities did not justify national regulations.

In developing the proposed effluent limitations and special conditions the following information was reviewed. The permitting strategies, effluent limitations, treatment technologies and special conditions that are being employed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the surrounding states for individual and general VPDES permits issued to coin operated laundries and the Environmental Protection Agency's Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges from the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category, February 1982 and the DRAFT Development Document for Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Auto and Other Laundries Point source Category, April 1974.

Determined by the nature of the business, the parameters to be limited in this general VPDES permit are pH, total suspended solids, BOD₅, dissolved oxygen, temperature and total residual chlorine. The pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and total residual chlorine limitations are based upon Virginia's stream water quality standards (9 VAC 25-260-50, 60, 70, 310 and 380 et seq.). The total suspended solids and BOD₅ parameters are based on best engineering judgment for the type of treatment employed by these systems. Complying with these parameters is an indication that the treatment system is being operated and maintained properly and is producing an acceptable quality effluent.

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E. coli was included in the limits table in the previous (2006) permit in accordance with the disinfection policy of 9VAC 25-260-170.B (Water Quality Standards) which requires that all sewage discharges achieve the applicable standards for bacteria. However, this draft permit excludes *E. coli* because the data indicated that there is no reasonable potential to exceed the limit. In addition, the draft development document for *Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category*, USEPA, April 1974 and the *Class V Underground Injection Control Study. Volume 8, Wells That Inject Fluids from Laundromats without Dry Cleaning*, USEPA September 1999 did not characterize bacteria in this type of wastewater. Furthermore, EPA did not consider fecal coliform in the *Effluent Guidelines Industrial Laundries Point Source Category Final Technical Development Document for Pretreatment Standards*, revised March 2000 and states in that document that EPA does not expect fecal coliform bacteria to be present in industrial laundry wastewaters because the laundering chemicals added to laundry process water and the temperature of the water will likely destroy fecal coliform that may have been present on laundered items.

Chlorine was proposed to be changed to mg/l because this is how it is typically reported by laboratories.

The requirement in Part I A.2 for solids and foam was duplicated in the special conditions (Part I B) in the previous (2006) permit. That special condition was proposed for deletion during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period.

Proposed Special Conditions

1. The permittee shall notify the Department as soon as they know or have reason to believe:
 - a. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:
 - (1) One hundred micrograms per liter;
 - (2) Two hundred micrograms per liter for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter for antimony;
 - (3) Five times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
 - (4) The level established by the Board.
 - b. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a nonroutine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:
 - (1) Five hundred micrograms per liter;
 - (2) One milligram per liter for antimony;
 - (3) Ten times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
 - (4) The level established by the Board.

Required by VPDES Permit Regulation, 9 VAC 25-31-200 A for all manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural discharges.

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2. Operation and Maintenance Manual Requirement. The permittee shall develop an Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Manual for the treatment works. This manual shall detail the practices and procedures which will be followed to ensure compliance with the requirements of this permit. The manual shall be submitted for staff approval within 90 days of [the effective date of this permit OR completion of construction]. If an approved O & M Manual is already on file with DEQ, the permittee shall review the existing O & M Manual and notify the DEQ regional office in writing within 90 days of the date of coverage under the general permit whether it is still accurate and complete. If the O & M Manual is no longer accurate and complete, a revised O & M Manual shall be submitted for approval to the DEQ regional office within 90 days of the date of coverage under the general permit or with the above required notification. The permittee will maintain an accurate, approved operation and maintenance manual for the treatment works. This manual shall detail the practices and procedures that will be followed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the permit. The permittee shall operate the treatment works in accordance with the approved O & M Manual. This manual shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following items, as appropriate:

- a. Techniques to be employed in the collection, preservation, and analysis of effluent samples;
- b. Discussion of Best Management Practices, if applicable;
- c. Treatment system design, treatment system operation, routine preventive maintenance of units within the treatment system, critical spare parts inventory and record keeping; and
- d. A Sludge/Solids Disposal Plan.

Required by Code of Virginia § 62.1-44.16; VPDES Permit Regulation, 9 VAC 25-31-190 E, and 40 CFR 122.41(e). These require proper operation and maintenance of the permitted facility. Compliance with an approval O&M manual ensures this. During the 2011 reissuance of the general permit, the language explaining the requirements for updates of operations and maintenance manuals already on file with DEQ was proposed.

3. The permittee shall not add chemicals to the water or waste which may be discharged other than those listed on the owner's accepted registration statement, unless prior approval of the chemical(s) is granted by the Department of Environmental Quality

In order to assure protection of water quality and beneficial uses of the waters receiving the discharge. This language is included in keeping with DEQ's pollution prevention philosophy. This special condition was slightly modified during the 2009 – 2011 rulemaking period for clarity and consistency.

4. Compliance Reporting under Part I A.

- a. The quantification levels (QL) shall be as follows:

<u>Effluent Characteristic</u>	<u>Quantification Level</u>
BOD5	5 mg/l
TSS	1.0 mg/l
Chlorine	0.10 mg/l

- b. Reporting. Any single datum required shall be reported as “<QL” if it is less than the QL in a. above. Otherwise the numerical value shall be reported.

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c. Monitoring results shall be reported using the same number of significant digits as listed in the permit. Regardless of the rounding convention used by the permittee (e.g., 5 always rounding up or to the nearest even number), the permittee shall use the convention consistently, and shall ensure that consulting laboratories employed by the permittee use the same convention.

Authorized by VPDES Permit Regulation, 9 VAC 25-31-190 J 4 and 220 I. This condition is necessary when toxic pollutants are monitored by the permittee and a maximum level of quantification and/or a specific analytical method is required in order to assess compliance with a permit limit or to compare effluent quality with a numeric criterion. The condition also establishes protocols for calculation of reported values. During the 2009-2011 rulemaking period, the QL for chlorine was increased to two significant digits in accordance with GM06-2016 (Significant Figures for Discharge Monitoring Reports). The explanation of daily maximum reporting was proposed for deletion because daily maximums are not calculated in this permit (all samples are grab and no averaging is done). Also, the statement about consistently using the same rounding convention was proposed for addition during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period.

5. If the discharge is into a municipal separate storm sewer the permittee is required to notify the owner of the municipal separate storm sewer system of the existence of the discharge within 30 days of coverage under the general permit and provide the following information: the name of the facility; a contact person and phone number; the location of the discharge, the nature of the discharge, and the facility's VPDES general permit number.

The purpose of this special condition is to meet VPDES program guidance in the Permit Manual, Section IN-4 September 23, 2005 General Storm Water Special Conditions permittees must notify the owner of the MS4 if they discharge into the MS4. The last two notifications (nature of discharge and VPDES number) were proposed for addition in the 2009-2011 rulemaking period to clarify for the MS4 program the type of discharge and that the discharge has a valid DEQ permit.

6. No sewage shall be discharged from a point source to surface waters from this facility except under the provisions of another VPDES permit specifically issued for that purpose.

The effluent limitations do not address pollutants typical of treated sewage, therefore no sewage discharge to surface waters are permitted under the general permit.

7. The discharges authorized by this permit shall be controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards.

This special condition was proposed for addition during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period as a general requirement. Similar special conditions are being added to all general permits during reissuance.

Administrative

The general permit will have a fixed term of five years. Every authorization under this general permit will expire at the same time and all authorizations will be renewed on the same date,

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provided a complete registration statement has been filed prior to the general permit's expiration date.

All owners/operators desiring to be covered by this general permit must register with the Department by filing a registration statement and payment of applicable fees. The registration statement shall be submitted and a notification of coverage issued prior to any discharges or other activities for which this permit is required. Coin operated laundries that are discharging to surface waters on the effective date of this general permit and which have not been issued an individual VPDES permit, may submit the registration statement.

Existing operations with individual VPDES permits that wish to seek coverage under the proposed general permit would have to file a registration statement at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of the individual VPDES permit. For all new dischargers that will begin activities after the effective date of this permit, the registration statement shall be filed at least 30 days prior to the commencement of operation of the coin operated laundry.

This general permit does not cover activities or discharges covered by an individual VPDES permit until the individual permit has expired or has been revoked. Any person conducting an activity covered by an individual permit, which could be covered by this general permit, may request that the individual permit be revoked and register for coverage under this general permit. Any owner or operator not wishing to be covered or limited by this general permit may make application for an individual VPDES permit, in accordance with VPDES procedures, stating the reasons supporting the request.

This general permit does not apply to any new or increased discharge that will result in significant effects to the receiving waters. That determination is made in accordance with the State Water Control Board's Antidegradation Policy contained in the Virginia Water Quality Standards, 9VAC 25-260-30 et seq.

This general permit will maintain the Water Quality Standards adopted by the Board. All facilities that the Department believes are eligible for coverage under this general permit will be authorized to discharge under the terms and conditions of the permit after a complete registration statement is submitted, the applicable permit fee is paid, and the Department sends a copy of the general permit to the applicant. If this general permit is inappropriate, the applicant will be so notified.

Coin operated laundries with point source discharges that do not qualify for coverage under this general permit may make application for an individual VPDES permit.